

Appl. No. 09/827,192

Amdt. Dated February 9, 2004

Reply of Office action of November 13, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for making a prefastened and refastenable pant, comprising:

providing a plurality of discrete articles, each article having first and second waist regions, a crotch region interconnecting the waist regions, a longitudinal centerline, first and second fastening components disposed in the first and second waist regions respectively and adapted to refastenably engage one another, the first waist region having opposed side panels;

providing an activatable retractive material in at least one of the waist regions;

folding each article through the crotch region;

folding the opposed side panels ~~parallel to the longitudinal centerline~~ to overlap at least portions of the first and second fastening components;

engaging the first and second fastening components; and

activating at least a portion of the retractive material causing the retractive material to retract subsequent to engagement of the fastening components, wherein activating the retractive material provides a waistband-to-hip circumference ratio of about 95 percent or less at a 70 gram loading and a waistband-to-hip circumference ratio of about 100 percent at a 2000 gram loading.

2. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein activating the retractive material comprises applying electromagnetic radiation.

3. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein activating the retractive material comprises applying heat.

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4. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 3, wherein applying heat comprises applying a volume of heated air and a greater volume of heated air is applied to a waistband as compared to a hip section.

5. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 3, wherein applying heat comprises applying an air flow and a higher temperature air flow is applied to a waistband as compared to a hip section.

6. (Original) The process of claim 1, further comprising temporarily maintaining the retractive material in an extended and unstable state by application of a compaction force.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The process of claim [[7]] 1, wherein activating the retractive material provides a waist-to-hip circumference ratio of about 90 percent or less.

9. (Original) The process of claim 8, wherein activating the retractive material provides a waistband-to-hip circumference ratio of about 75 to about 90 percent.

10. (Currently Amended) A process for making a prefastened and refastenable pant, comprising:

providing a plurality of discrete articles, each article having first and second waist regions, a crotch region interconnecting the waist regions, a longitudinal centerline, first and second fastening components disposed in the first and second waist regions respectively and adapted to refastenably engage one another, the first waist region having opposed side panels;

providing an activatable retractive material in at least one of the waist regions;

obtaining position control of the opposed side panels;

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activating at least a portion of the retractive material causing retraction of the retractive material, wherein activating the retractive material provides a waistband-to-hip circumference ratio of about 95 percent or less at a 70 gram loading and a waistband-to-hip circumference ratio of about 100 percent at a 2000 gram loading;

folding each article through the crotch region;

folding the opposed side panels ~~parallel to the longitudinal centerline~~ to overlap at least portions of the first and second fastening components;

engaging the first and second fastening components; and

maintaining position control of the opposed side panels until the fastening components are engaged.

11. (Original) The process of claim 10, wherein activating the retractive material comprises applying electromagnetic radiation.

12. (Original) The process of claim 10, wherein activating the retractive material comprises applying heat.

13. (Original) The process of claim 10, further comprising temporarily maintaining the retractive material in an extended and unstable state by application of a compaction force.

14. (Original) The process of claim 10, wherein at least a portion of the retractive material is activated prior to engaging the first and second fastening components.

15. (Original) The process of claim 14, wherein at least a portion of the retractive material is activated prior to folding the opposed side panels.

16. (Canceled)

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17. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~[[16]]~~ 10, wherein activating the retractive material provides a waistband-to-hip circumference ratio of about 90 percent or less.

18. (Original) The process of claim 17, wherein activating the retractive material provides a waistband-to-hip circumference ratio of about 75 to about 90 percent.

Claims 19 – 35 (Canceled).